



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations Week Ending: August 27, 2005 WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL

Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two lots of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF - 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 28,484 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 3,381 gallons)

On Friday, Aug. 26 neutralization operations resumed at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF). The facility currently is conducting operations in a ramp up phase. During this period, operations will be conducted slowly with the primary focus of safely optimizing system performance. Periodic pauses in destruction operations are planned to allow extensive review of operational data and to focus on lessons learned.

When the neutralization facility restarted, operators began processing the agent that was left in holding tanks when operations paused on June 10. After these batches are run, operations will once again pause as part of the planned ramp up. These planned pauses, extensive data review and facility modifications are vital to ensure optimum safe performance of NECDF.

Once the agent currently held in the NECDF holding tanks is processed and the data is thoroughly analyzed the Army will communicate the resulting lessons learned and our path forward.

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

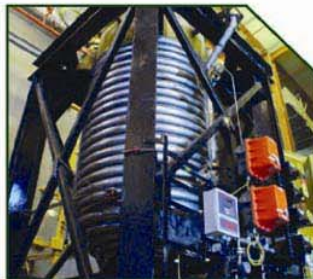
- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent
Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

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Newport stockpile
consists of:



Liquid chemical
agent VX housed in
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW